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ER-9-9191

6 December 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Proposed Letter to Marshal Bulganin from the President

1. I am attaching herewith a paper that I think is worth your attention the next time you are catching up on your office reading. The form is that of a draft letter from the President to Bulganin. What it contains is a number of specific proposals on mutual aerial inspection and on steps toward disarmament, including a unilateral statement that the Russians may use the facilities of certain United States air bases to conduct overflights of this country any time they wish and that United States is going to conduct overflights of the USSR forthwith.

2. To me the most interesting part of the paper is the doctrine, analogous to the three mile limit along a coast line, that national sovereignty extends only as high into the air spaces as defensive military aircraft can normally operate. The draft letter suggests that some such doctrine is implicit in Soviet launching of missiles that overfly other parts of the world. Taken as a whole, the letter impresses me as highly ingenious; it puts forward a series of explanations and suggestions which could have considerable world-wide appeal and which are all related to peace and disarmament. At the same time, it slips in a rather ingenious justification of overflights.

3. I have shown this to [redacted] who agreed that it will be worth your attention. A Presidential open letter is, of course, an expedient only rarely to be invoked, and no doubt there are many good reasons for not making a move of the sort herein suggested at this time. Possibly, also, some of the ideas in this draft could be used in some manner other than a Presidential letter or statement. I do feel strongly, however, that we have never made any serious effort to build a political defense for some of the intelligence activities we wish to undertake, and I feel we should at least consider seriously so doing.

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Approved For Release 2002/10/22 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002500100010-5

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Approved For Release 2002/10/22 : CIA-RDP80B01676R002500100010-5

4. The author of this draft is [redacted] who has been working for me for about three months on certain aspects of AQUATONE. His connection is now terminated, but I mention this to indicate to you that he is fully witting of what we are doing. He is well-known to General Doolittle and also to General Cabell. 25X1

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[redacted]

Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning

Attachment
Draft Letter

cc: DDCI w/o att
DD/C w/o att

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